

Earthquake updates (JWCU)
As of 1:30 p.m. March 16, 2011
(since the last information)

<JWCU nationwide efforts>

- JWCU head office has set up Disaster Task Force. It will have a daily brief to share information and discuss the work to do.
- About 10 main members from the head office went to Tohoku (northeast) regions to set up 2 hubs (1 in Sendai, Miyagi, and the other in Akita (northwest of Miyagi) to collect information and distribute supplies. They have already arrived there and started working on March 15th.
- JWCU president Yuzo NAGATO and several others will head to Tohoku from March 23-28, and they will have a meeting at the regional office in Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture) on 26th to discuss the future direction.
- Several members nationwide have sent supplies (sleeping bags, water, foods) to the head office. The head office will distribute those supplies in accordance with the information on members' needs.
- The most severe damage is expected at our units in 3 areas (Onagawa City & Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture, Noda Village in Iwate Prefecture). We will prioritize these 3 areas to send supplies and human resources.
- Our unit in Narita (close to Narita Airport) produces bio-diesel fuel (growing rapeseeds in an abandoned farm land and producing cooking oil from the 1st extract and bio-fuel from the 2nd extract with used cooking oil). Now that we have serious gas shortage, we are planning to distribute the supplies from Tokyo using a diesel truck and this bio-fuel. The unit in Narita will increase its production.
- The head office has ordered 5 sets of devices to measure the level of radiation.
- JWCU is preparing to open a special account for the relief fund. The fund will be used for the supply and cash assistance (for both short- and long-term).

<Safety of Members in Tohoku>

- Most of the members have been found safe. However, we still have not been able to reach some members. Even for those who have been found safe, some of their families are missing and/or killed by the earthquake and tsunami.
- Of the 2 missing member cooperatives (Ishinomaki Jigyodan & Bihoro), we were able to reach the president of Ishinomaki Jigyodan. She was safe because she was at their day care center on the hill. However, their head office is closer to the coast, and

we have not been able to reach other members there.

- We have not been able to contact anyone at the unit in Onagawa City, Miyagi Prefecture. Our task force team tried to drive to the office, but the streets were so damaged that they had to come back before they arrived.
- At some of our day care centers for the elderly, the worker members and clients have been living there since the earthquake. The quake happened during the service hours.

<Property Damage in Tohoku>

- Aomori Prefecture: The extent of property damage is immeasurable.
- Miyagi Prefecture: The building cracks are very severe.
- Iwate Prefecture: There are cracks in walls.
- Fukushima Prefecture: The base of the building broke at a day care center.

<Property Damage in Other Areas>

- Kanagawa (south of Tokyo) joint regional office of our member coops, Koreikyo (older persons' cooperative) and Center Jigyodan, was damaged. The building is too dangerous to stay that members moved documents and PCs to one of their service units.
- At least one child care center in Tokyo is closed because the building is damaged.
- Some buildings of units in Chiba Prefecture (east of Tokyo) are damaged due to liquefaction.

<Others>

- JWCUC operates dozens of day care centers for older persons and those with disabilities. For some of them, however, it is becoming extremely difficult to provide services (some have decided to close at least for a few days) in Tokyo and surrounding areas mainly for 2 reasons. The first reason is gas shortage. In Japan, those centers provide transportation between clients' homes and the centers. Without the gas, they cannot provide that service and the clients cannot come to the centers. The second reason is fewer numbers of trains running due to so called "planned blackout (in reality, that PLAN does not go as planned)." This has a tremendous effect on workers' commuting. Some workers stay overnight at the centers, but not all of them can do it.